

EMERGENCY ALERT: Middle Tennesseans in Haiti

Due to a massive earthquake, a number of Middle Tennesseans currently in Haiti may be in danger. We are working with The State Department as they coordinate the rescue operation, but communication is very limited, so information about the location of Americans on the island is essential.

If anyone has friends or family members currently in Haiti to please contact my office immediately by calling 615-736-5295. We need the names, contact information, and most recent known location of anyone who is on the island. The State Department Operations Center has set up the following number for Americans seeking information about family members in Haiti: 1-888-407-4747.

INFORMATION ON THE CRISIS IN HAITI

The thoughts and prayers of the entire Congress are with the people of Haiti. The United States and Members of Congress remain committed to helping the Haitian people recover from this latest disaster and rebuild their homes, communities, and lives in the days and weeks to come. The Obama Administration has launched a swift, coordinated and aggressive effort to save lives and support the recovery in Haiti, including an immediate investment of \$100 million to support the relief efforts for life-saving equipment, food, water and medicine that will be needed.

Looking for Relatives

Families of Americans living in Haiti who are trying to find the status of their loved ones are encouraged to contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747. This line is experiencing a high volume of calls at this time, so some callers may receive a recording. To better handle these requests, the State Department has established an e-mail address as well: Haiti-Earthquake@state.gov.

A top priority of the State Department is accounting for the thousands of American citizens who are currently in Haiti. US citizens in Haiti have been urged to contact the Embassy via email at ACSPaP@state.gov to request

assistance or call the Embassy's Consular Task Force at 509-2229-8942, 509-2229-8089, 509-2229-8322, or 509-2229-8672.

The Red Cross has also set up a Family Links website managed by the ICRC, in cooperation with the tracing services of the Haitian Red Cross Society and of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world, to assist in the process of restoring contact between separated family members:

- Family Links website for Haiti»

- Cette page en français»

More Resources

- White House»

- State Department»

- USAID»

For Information About How You Can Help:

The State Department has established a dedicated web page that offers advice for anyone wishing to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake:

- State Department Haiti Earthquake website»

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) provides information and guidance in support of appropriate international disaster relief:

- Center for International Disaster Information
(CIDI) website»

Haitian Earthquake Fraud Alert:

The

FBI has issued a fraud alert, reminding Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of Tuesday's earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, to include the following:

Do not respond to any
unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages.

Be skeptical of individuals
representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.

Verify the legitimacy of
nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site.

Be cautious of e-mails that
claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.

Make contributions directly to
known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.

Do not give your personal or
financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

To the people
of Haiti, we say clearly, and with conviction, you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten. In this, your hour of greatest need, America stands with you. The world stands with you. We know that you are a strong and resilient people. You have endured a history of slavery and struggle, of natural disaster and recovery. And through it all, your spirit has been unbroken and your faith has been unwavering. So today, you must know that help is arriving -- much, much more help is on the way.

- President Barack Obama, 1/14/10

